

Fall Recreation,
p.12



Preserve in Peril,
p.7

Virtual Summer Circus Camp Exceeds Every Expectation

by Elizabeth Gardner



Pie Day at Circus Camp! Top row from left, Mira Willson, Mike Funt, Charlie Fahey; middle row from left, Thomas Sage, Alan Elliot, Felix Haas; bottom row from left, Dean and Evan McClelland, Iris Gaycken

Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web www.greenbeltnewsreview.com.

As all the annual Greenbelt summer camps moved online, Circus Camp was no exception. With the large amount of equipment and space needed for the typical Circus Camp experience, this may have been one of the more difficult camps to run virtu-

ally, but director Mike Funt and staff members Charlie Fahey and Mira Willson have worked hard to make the summer a huge success. The summer is split into five two-week sessions, each open to campers aged 6 to 14.

The days begin with Zoom warmup stretches led by Willson and conditioning exercises called “the burn” led by Fahey. They then move into arts and crafts

time, where campers work on various circus-related projects. The afternoons are spent working on circus skills, including clowning and juggling, using equipment that campers might have at home. They play games to determine which skills to work on, so that they can practice while keeping it fun. Campers can also sign up for one-on-one coaching on a skill of their choice. They might come to learn a new trick on the flower sticks, perfect their three-

See CIRCUS, page 6

Council Takes Steps to Save Thousands on Bond Refinancing

by Matthew Arbach

At a worksession on July 27 and a special meeting on August 3, the Greenbelt City Council had an opportunity to meet with First Vice President Jennifer Dierksen and Senior Vice President Joe Mason from Davenport and Company (the city’s financial advisor) and City Bond Counsel Fabian Walters, from Miles and Stockbridge, to review bank bids and legislation regarding the refinancing of two of the city’s existing

bond debts. Davenport, which handled the bids, was keen to take advantage of historically low interest rates, allowing the city to potentially save over \$700,000. Walters prepared two pieces of legislation for council approval that would allow the city to do this refinancing. All of this effort stemmed from the June 22 meeting where council approved

See COUNCIL, page 6

What Goes On

Tuesday, August 18 9 a.m. Joint Public Hearings: I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study
All meetings are virtual. See the meetings calendar at greenbeltnmd.gov for agendas and information on public participation in these meetings.

Mayor Byrd: Council Suffering “Paralysis by Analysis” on Maglev

by Donna Hoffmeister

At Monday night’s city council meeting, council held a half-hour long discussion on project developments related to the Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Maglev Project. The only consensus reached appeared to be to continue to oppose the project, to continue to attempt to find outside legal help and to hold a worksession in the near future to discuss more details.

Participating in the discus-

sion were Councilmember Judith Davis, who asked that the item be placed on an already lengthy agenda, as well as Councilmembers Emmett Jordan, Rodney Roberts and Leta Mach. Councilmember Edward Putens remained silent and Councilmember Silke Pope was absent.

Even though they expressed a sense of urgency, they couldn’t

See MAGLEV, page 6



Tall trees characterize Greenbelt's Northern Forest Preserve.

From the Archives

Greenbelters in the 50s Waited Long Years for a Polio Vaccine

by Jeannette Connors

An epidemiological history of infectious diseases in Greenbelt must include a chapter on poliomyelitis, or polio, a life-threatening illness caused by the poliovirus, and the vaccines – two were developed – that eventually virtually eliminated the disease, along with the fear of catching it.

As cases of polio began to

rise in the United States and throughout the world, the Greenbelt Cooperator reported in September 1941 that no cases were found in Greenbelt. The town’s public health officer at the time, Dr. Joseph Silagy, stated that although Prince George’s County was experiencing an increase in cases, Greenbelt was polio-free. He also said that since no vaccine had been discovered yet, control of the disease depended on the cooperation of everyone in the community in carrying out prevention measures, including isolating sick children, not making out-of-town trips with children and avoiding undue physical strain on children during the prevalence of the disease.

First Greenbelt Case?

This declaration was unfortunately short-lived as well as inaccurate. The following week’s Cooperator reported that prior to the statement that Greenbelt was free from polio, a suspected case was in fact already reported to Silagy: a local doctor had asked

See POLIO, page 8



The Peace and Justice Coalition display informative posters at the ceremony commemorating the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Nagasaki, held at the Book Arts Gallery at Liberty Plaza in Washington, D.C., last Saturday evening. From left, Greenbelters Becky Steele, Bill Orleans and Donna Hoffmeister. See story on page 3.

Letters to the Editor

A Message To City Council

We support Mayor Colin Byrd’s leadership and courage in calling Greenbelt residents to rethink what public safety and policing mean for our community. His proposed Greenbelt Fair and Just Policing Act of 2020 is an important first step in needed policy changes and codifications into municipal law around de-escalation; use of force; interventions when other officers use unnecessary force; civil liberties; transparency, data and reporting; civilian oversight; racial profiling and bias; militarization; hiring; and accountability. Please deliberate carefully and support these proposals.

We also ask that the Greenbelt City Council shift police from social service roles:

Remove School Resource Officers from schools so there is more money for education and counseling services.

Reduce the work police have been asked to take on that can be better addressed by mental health and social service professionals. Repurpose a significant amount of money that is earmarked for the police budget for the kinds of mental health and social services that have been shown to enhance public safety. For example, shifting more money to CARES for expanded services including a 24-hour special crisis response unit would be more impactful and effective.

Mayor Byrd’s recent decision to inform residents of aspects of the Police-Union Collective Bargaining Agreement that would seek to preserve LEOBR protections for our local department regardless of proposed changes to state law was important, timely and effective. We note that public feedback did help to get removal of the local LEOBR provision. We were disappointed that consideration of further public feedback was deferred to the next Collective Bargaining Agreement. We look forward to an open and transparent process for next year’s agreement.

The Greenbelt Police Department is not immune to racial bias in citations and use of force. Statistics taken from the Law Enforcement Accreditation Report (CALEA) for 2019-2020 about the Greenbelt Police Department indicate the need to examine and

address racism in policing practices. According to the CALEA report, over the past four years: (1) people of color either living in or driving through Greenbelt have received 8,768 citations compared to 1,407 for white people, and (2) use of force was used on people of color 56 times in comparison to five times for white people.

Therefore, we ask each councilmember to join Mayor Byrd in efforts to re-evaluate the city’s priorities around policing and racial equity. Given the troubling racial history of our city (beginning with the whites-only rules from the federal government), and the data from the CALEA Report, this review is long overdue. This is not a time for business as usual as we face multiple crises.

In addition to a crisis in policing nationwide, there is a pandemic and recession disproportionately killing and ravaging Black, Indigenous and other People of Color (BIPOC) and their families. How many of these deaths are in Greenbelt?

Our city needs to take action on racial disparities in housing, education, health and welfare, income, and wealth – including the ugly reality that some people who have lost their jobs and income due to COVID-19 may be evicted from their homes and apartments. There are concrete steps that our city can take to address these

disparities, including continuing to work to stop evictions and to assist small and independent businesses.

We ask you to carefully view all your council decisions for city governance with an antiracist perspective and racial equity lens. At this time when stark injustice is so clear, you have the capacity and obligation as the City Council to take specific steps to ensure that Greenbelt lives up to the community pledge to be a “respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.” How else can we redesign our community in service to racial equity without such mindful consideration?

Thank you for your service to our city.

Greenbelt Racial Equity Alliance (GREA)
Prince George’s County Peace & Justice Coalition

(This letter was presented to the Greenbelt City Council at its August 10 meeting.)

Mowatt Family Fun

Many thanks to all who made the Mowatt Family Fun Day a safe success. On Saturday August 1, Greenbelter Amy Caruso organized fun stations, including an obstacle course, chalk drawing and prayer wall. Families pre-registered so that there was plenty of space for social distancing. Pastor Fay Lundin held the hose to clean and cool us off. In this time of Zoom and so much com-

See LETTERS, page 7

New Submission Deadlines

The Greenbelt News Review has revised its deadlines in view of the impact of COVID-19 on our operations. The new deadlines are:

Display ads: Copy that is not camera-ready – 2 p.m. Monday

Display ads: Camera-ready copy – 6 p.m. Tuesday

Classified ads: 6 p.m. Tuesday

Letters to the editor (which should be fewer than 300 words): 2 p.m. Tuesday

Stories under 700 words: 2 p.m. Tuesday

Stories over 700 words: 2 p.m. Monday

Photos: 2 p.m. Tuesday

Community events: 2 p.m. Tuesday

Se Habla Español

Vaya a nuestra página web greenbeltnewsreview.com para ver artículos en español.

See our website, greenbeltnewsreview.com, for articles in Spanish.

ERRATUM COMICA



In the July 30th cartoon, the Bozzuto building was misspelled "Buzzuto".

We're not saying the beehive on the premises influenced the cartoonist, buzzt stranger things have happened. See the photo of the beehive for more information.

-Pete Reppert

(See photos, at the bottom of this page for more information about the Bozzuto Bees.)



PHOTO BY PASTOR FAY LUNDIN

Children enjoy the Mowatt Family Fun Day.

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/contact-us/distribution/

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cathie Meetre, president; Diane Oberg, vice president; Deanna Dawson, secretary; Tom Jones, treasurer; Pat Scully and Sylvia Lewis.

DEADLINES: Letters, Photos and Articles under 700 words - 2 p.m. Tuesday. Display Ads and stories over 700 words - 2 p.m. Monday, Classified Ads and camera-ready Display Ads - 6 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be e-mailed, or mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 2 p.m. Tuesday) or dropped through the mail slot for our office on the east side of the Community Center, (side closest to the Municipal Building) 15 Crescent Road. Mail subscriptions—\$50/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 -10 p.m.



This sign, sharing the buzz about the Bozzuto Bees, is placed near the beehives.

- Photos by Pete Reppert



The bee hives are visible from the sidewalk on Ivy Lane near the Bozzuto building. Did the hives wield a mysterious influence on a local editorial cartoonist? Only the bees know.

Community Events

At the Library

Greenbelt Library curbside service hours: Tuesdays, 1 to 8 p.m.; Wednesdays through Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 1 to 5 p.m. Hold requests for up to 50 items and appointments scheduled via catalog.pgcmlls.info/polaris or 240-455-5451. Pickup by pedestrians or by bicyclists must be indicated when scheduling a pickup time.

The quarantine period for returned items has been lengthened to 96 hours; items must be placed in the returned book slot, not handed to library staff. Customers should allow five to seven days for items to clear, so they may temporarily appear as overdue in patrons' accounts.

The Library is now fine-free: all existing overdue fines have been waived.

Kendi Interview

The archival video of Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's interview with Dr. Charlene M. Dukes on How to Be an Antiracist is available for on-demand viewing at pgcmlls.info/anti-racism until August 20. Kendi is a leading voice in combating systemic racism in the U.S. and around the world.

Summer Reading

Customers can schedule pickup of Summer at Your Library prizes at pgcmlls.info/curbside. Prizes for multiple household members may be retrieved during one appointment.

Customers with questions are invited to call PGCMLS Ask a Librarian at 240-455-5451 or askalibrarian@pgcmlls.info with questions. Library staff are available by phone Tuesdays, 1 to 8 p.m.; Wednesdays through Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays 1 to 5 p.m.

More Community Events
are located throughout the paper.

Dem Club Urges Residents To Help Get Out the Vote

by Konrad Herling

The Eleanor & Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club will next meet on Sunday, August 23 at 3 p.m. via Zoom. The club is in the process of securing speakers for the event who will play pivotal roles in the campaign.

A few Sundays ago, club members met via Zoom with State Senator Jim Rosapepe of Maryland's Biden campaign. While the polls look good for Vice President Biden, Rosapepe urged all Democrats to step up to the plate and capitalize on this opportunity.

He stressed the need to help out by calling folks up from the Party's phone banks, not only in Maryland but in neighboring states of Virginia and Pennsylvania. Callers will urge folks to vote, by mail or in person. The Roosevelt Democratic Club will be learning more about the mail and voting process in the next week and will share that information at the August 23 meeting.

Courtesy of the State's Democratic organization, these points are known. Every registered voter will receive an absentee ballot application, or can request an absentee ballot by contacting the Maryland State Board of

Jorgensen Receives Boxwood Scholarship

The Boxwood Village Civic Association (BVCA) is pleased to announce that the recipient of the 2020 BVCA Scholarship is Bailey Jorgensen. Bailey, the child of Arlynda and Jamie Jorgensen, recently graduated from Eleanor Roosevelt High School. He is expected to attend (online) Utah State University seeking to become a mechanical engineer. BVCA is looking forward to hearing about his future impactful endeavors.

Virtual Recreation

Greenbelt Recreation's summer programs are online via the Virtual Recreation Center. Go to greenbeltmd.gov/recreation to access a wide range of online activities, including classes, summer camps, video tutorials, sing-alongs and more. Art activities can be accessed in the Visual Arts section of the Virtual Recreation Center.

Overeaters Meet

Overeaters Anonymous is continuing to hold its newcomer introductory meeting by Zoom at 6:45 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month (next will be August 17) and their regular Greenbelt meeting by Zoom or phone at 7:30 p.m. every Monday. Overeaters Anonymous is a 12-step program modelled after Alcoholics Anonymous that provides help and recovery for those troubled by overeating, undereating or other food-related behaviors. For more information, call 240-305-3433 or visit their D.C. region website at oa-dcmetro.org.

My Perspective

Avoiding Nuclear Devastation: Such Luck Can't Possibly Hold

by Donna Hoffmeister

It is really only luck that has prevented the world from nuclear devastation far worse than our attack on Japan in August 1945. That is the opinion of former Defense Secretary William Perry.

Perry is worried because:

- Treaties to reduce the number of nuclear weapons have been abrogated, increasing the number of nuclear weapons worldwide.
- Policies have been articulated that expand the situations in which the U.S. would consider using nuclear weapons first, for instance, following a cyberattack.

The President has made explicit threats about using nuclear weapons to totally destroy North Korea and Iran.

We have recently deployed new nuclear weapons that are "more useable" which means they are more likely to be used and the targets of these weapons will respond with nuclear weapon attacks of their own.

The U.S. has initiated a \$1.7 trillion expansion of its nuclear weapons arsenal and delivery system, when we need these funds at home to deal with the pandemic.

The Trump administration has announced plans to initiate new and dangerous nuclear testing.

We know what happens when nuclear weapons are dropped on cities because we did it 75 years ago, in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The impact of an attack today is far greater. Not only would millions more people die from the direct attack, but it would likely lead to "nuclear winter," in which at least two billion people on earth would die from starvation brought about by crop failures and infrastructure loss.

Greenbelters Esther Webb,



Marjorie Donn of Greenbelt has come to these commemorations for several years to honor her husband, Bert Donn, who worked tirelessly for nonproliferation and abolition of nuclear weapons.



Becky Steele of Greenbelt speaks about the importance of this event for her personally. - Photos by Chris Belcher

Gayle Drake, Marj and Bert Donn and Marjorie Gray were actively involved in the 1985 anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Fifteen miles of ribbons displaying "What I cannot bear to think of as lost forever in a nuclear war" encircled the Pentagon, the Mall and the White House (reported in the News Review on August 1, 1985). Because of local efforts for non-proliferation, Greenbelt received a Peace Pole in 1987 from the World Peace Prayer Society, which was installed near the Youth Center parking lot. On Saturday, 75 years after the bombing of Nagasaki, the Peace and Justice Coalition displayed informative posters in Roosevelt Center about the destructive power of nuclear weapons.

If the possibility of a nuclear war scares you, check out the campaign, Back from the Brink. Read about the UN Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons. When just eight more countries ratify this treaty and nuclear weapons become illegal under international law, countries will face intense pressure to destroy them. This 75th anniversary of the U.S. dropping atomic bombs on Japan provides an ideal opportunity to add one more item to the causes you care about. Work to eliminate nuclear weapons from the earth, before they eliminate us.

Clarification

We passed on a question from an alert reader about the book donation policies described in an ad that ran in this newspaper on August 6. We received the following response from Stephen Fitzgerald of the library system:

In reference to the ad from the Prince George's County Memorial Library System in the August 6 issue of the Greenbelt News Review stating that the library will not be accepting book donations for the foreseeable future, a closer look at the ad indicates that if you have books that you'd like to get out of the house, the Greenbelt Library is one of several branch libraries that have third-party book donation bins outside.



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Sunday Sept 13 - 3pm on ZOOM

GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION, INC.

CONNECT WITH GATE ON

This year we will be hosting our
Annual Membership Meeting online.

To receive a link or phone number to join us
on ZOOM please email:
greenbeltaccess@gmail.com

We will be voting on three Board Member positions by anonymous online vote. Members will receive a link to vote for candidates the day before the meeting. Nominations will be open until
September 11th at 11:59pm

Members will also be voting on
Proposed Amendments to the Greenbelt Access Television, Inc. By-Laws
which can be accessed via our website:
<https://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/bylaws>

WATCH US on VERIZON Fios 19 or COMCAST 77
FIND OUR PROGRAM SCHEDULE at www.greenbeltaccessstv.org by clicking on Channel

GAC online

GREENBELT ARTS CENTER

The Rude Mechanicals in residence at
Greenbelt Arts Center present:

Romeo and Juliet

by William Shakespeare, directed by Claudia Bach

Live on Zoom: Saturday, August 15, 8 PM Suggested donation: \$10
Sunday, August 16, 2 PM

A portion of the donations will fund GAC's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives.

greenbeltartscenter.org rudemechanicals.com

Obituaries

Thomas White



Thomas White

Thomas Edward White, a retired federal official and Greenbelt resident, died on August 3, 2020. Dr. White was born in Donora, Penn., and moved to Greenbelt in 1965. He was one of 10 children born to Fletcher and Elizabeth White. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army and was stationed in France and Germany.

He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1949, receiving a bachelor's degree in business administration, with a concentration in economics. He received a master's degree in economics from American University in 1951. In 1959, he received a doctorate in economics from the University of Pittsburgh. He received a master's degree in public administration from American University in 1967-1968 and a master's degree from the University of Maryland in technology management in 2010.

Dr. White began teaching at Hampton Institute in 1954 as an assistant professor of economics. During his teaching career, he taught at Shaw University, Georgetown University and the University of Maryland. He served as a research fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research and at Columbia University in 1960-1961 and held an internship at the Harvard Business School.

He began his government career with the U.S. Department of Commerce in 1949, working on the 1950 Census, and joined the U.S. Department of Labor as a labor economist in 1961, later transferring to the U.S. Unemployment Insurance Service. This was followed by employment with the North American Aviation Company and the General Electric Company (TEMPO) working on private sector transfers of Defense Department management

technology and research on the feasibility of establishing an all-volunteer armed force.

Dr. White resumed his federal career in 1972, joining the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, serving in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health as a health economist, working on a national health insurance initiative advocated by then-President Nixon and a user charges system for the Food and Drug Administration. He served on assignment to the District of Columbia, working on a congressional mandate to improve management of the Department of Human Resources in the city government. He served for over 20 years as the executive secretary of the Board of Correction of the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Records, an appeal board for PHS Commissioned Corps officers. He retired in 2002 after 38 years of federal service and 10 years in the private sector. Following retirement at age 83, Dr. White returned to University of Maryland, earning a master's in technology management.

He was a member of the University of Maryland chapter of the honor society Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest all-discipline honor society, founded in 1897. Alumni of the society include former President Jimmy Carter and former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Dr. White was an avid ballroom dancer, competing many years in Arthur Murray dance competitions and winning gold-level awards.

Survivors include wife Alice Cobb, son Gregory, daughter-in-law Joyce, daughters Sharin and Carole, five grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. His survivors also include brother Colonel Richard White, sisters Loretta Johns and Yvonne Dewitt, and other friends and relatives.

Visitation will be held Sunday, August 16 at 11 a.m. at Gasch's Funeral Home located at 4739 Baltimore Avenue, Hyattsville. Funeral services will follow at noon.



Kathleen Rodriguez shares some photos taken by her granddaughter, Lily Sky Yokel, age 6, during their weekly walk around Greenbelt Lake. Lily loves the flowers and turtles.

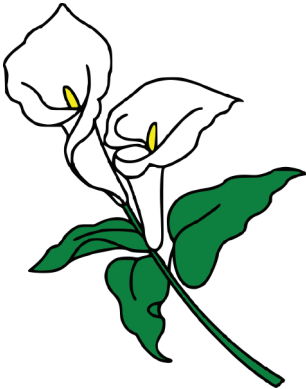
PHOTO BY LILY SKY YOKEL



Our condolences to the family, friends, former colleagues and fellow dance enthusiasts of Dr. Thomas White, who died on August 3.

Congratulations to 2020 Boxwood Village Scholarship recipient Bailey Jorgensen, who will be virtually attending Utah State University studying mechanical engineering.

Share your accomplishments, milestones and news in the Our Neighbors column. Send details of your news items to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



Meals on Wheels Launches GoFundMe

Meals on Wheels of College Park provides those in need in Prince George's County, including Greenbelt, with a food delivery service. Since the pandemic began, they have nearly doubled their client base, straining their resources. The organization is now seeking community support by launching a GoFundMe campaign to raise \$500,000. This will support the purchase of new kitchen appliances and supplies to feed those affected by COVID-19. Learn more or contribute at charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/fund-us-to-feed-them.

I am my brother's keeper.

Paid ad

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors
Find us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc) [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)
301-474-9410
Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor
In person worship services cancelled for now.
Live streaming on our Facebook page @mowattumc.
10 a.m. Sunday mornings

The Bible Says...

Therefore there is now
no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus
Romans 8:1

 **Sunday Worship Services**
10a-11a **ONLINE**
[MCFcc.org/online](https://www.mcfcc.org/online)

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org
Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community
February 16 10 a.m.
"The Long Hard Journey to Women's Suffrage"
Minister Rev. Rachel Christensen; with Worship Associate Polly Pettit
August 18, 2020 is the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the 19th Amendment, granting women the right to vote. We will explore the long hard journey to convince men to vote for it, and what it means for us today. **ONLINE ONLY.** Streaming information at <http://bit.ly/PBAug2020>

Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield
An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.
Friday evening services at 8:00pm
Saturday morning services at 10:00am
All services and activities are currently virtual
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

RETURN TO PUBLIC CELEBRATION
With joy, we return to the public celebration of Mass. Attendance is limited to 100 persons per Mass, all (3 and up) must wear masks. All details available on our website. Mon-Fri 7:15am, Sat 9am; Sat vigil 5pm; Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm
135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org

Worship with us at

Greenbelt Baptist Church

Biblical
Confessional
Reformed
Gospel Centered

Join us **OUTSIDE** Sundays at 10:00am /Wednesdays (online) at 7:00pm
www.greenbeltbaptist.org
Instagram/Facebook/YouTube
www.greenbeltbaptist.org
301-474-4212
@GreenbeltBaptist

Greenbelt Community Church


 **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
a just world for all

Rev. Deb Vaughn, Guest Minister
Check us out on Facebook Live this Sunday at 10:15 AM
<https://www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD>

1 Hillside Road 301-474-6171

"The oneness of humanity is the foundation of our future. Its realization is the inevitable next stage in our life on this planet. We will replace a world society based upon competition and conflict, and driven by rampant materialism, with one founded upon our higher potential for collaboration and reciprocity. This achievement will mark the universal coming of age of the human race. How soon we achieve this, and how easily, will depend upon the commitment we demonstrate to this cardinal principle."

National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the U.S.
see entire statement at www.greenbeltbahais.org

 **Greenbelt Bahá'í Community**
www.greenbeltbahais.org



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS FOR AUGUST 17-21

There are **NO CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS** scheduled for this week.

Wednesday, August 19 at 7:30pm **ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD** *On the Agenda: Discussion of the Proposed Royal Farms-Detailed Site Plan and Election of Vice-Chair*

This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000. For information on public participation for the virtual meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov.

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on:

- Arts Advisory Board
- Board of Elections
- Forest Preserve Advisory Board
- Public Safety Advisory Committee
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- Youth Advisory Committee

For more information call 301- 474-8000

Greenbelt City Council
cordially invites you to
the...



SUMMER VIRTUAL BUSINESS COFFEE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2020
9:00AM - 10:30AM

To RSVP:
<https://greenbelt-summer-virtual-coffee.eventbrite.com>

Zoom link will be sent 24 hours before event.

GREENBELT MUSEUM

VIRTUAL RETRO TOWN FAIR

New this year a Mask/Face Covering category!
Share your best COVID-fighting creation!

TO PARTICIPATE

1. Take a photo of your item.
2. Send us an email with **Retro Town Fair Entry** as the subject line. In the email let us know what category you're entering (see below for list).
3. Attach your photo to the email. Please use a jpeg format. Please submit via email between Friday, August 21—Friday, August 28. Send to education@greenbeltmuseum.org.

CATEGORIES

Flowers and Vegetables

(examples: cut flowers, garden flowers you've grown, fruit or vegetables you've grown)

Canned Goods

(examples: preserves and jams, vegetables, pickles)

Needlework

(examples: crochet, knitting, embroidery, sewing)

Crafts, Open Category

(examples: jewelry, woodworking, dollmaking)

Mask/Face Covering

Legacy Handcraft Exhibition

Share an item that's an heirloom handcraft made by an entrant, or by a family member, more than 10 years ago. Please include relevant information about the item. These items will not be judged, they are for viewing only.

SCHEDULE

Fri., August 21 - Fri., August 28

Submit all entries

Send to:

education@greenbeltmuseum.org

Sunday, September 6

Winners will be announced on the Museum's website:
greenbeltmuseum.org

Questions? Contact Sheila Maffay-Tuthill at education@greenbeltmuseum.org.

For more information visit the Museum's website, greenbeltmuseum.org.

Thank you for participating!

GREENBELT MUSEUM



Greenbelt Recreation FALL CLASSES

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painting "Clever Girl" by Rachel Cross, instructor, Maryland Wildlife art class

ORDINANCE NO. 1375

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE AND EMPOWER THE CITY OF GREENBELT, MARYLAND, FROM TIME TO TIME, TO BORROW NOT MORE THAN FOUR MILLION ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$4,125,000) FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF REFUNDING THE OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF THE CITY'S REFUNDING BOND OF 2011 AND THE CITY'S TAXABLE GENERAL OBLIGATION PENSION REFUNDING BOND OF 2013, AND TO EFFECT SUCH BORROWING BY THE ISSUANCE AND SALE, UPON ITS FULL FAITH AND CREDIT, OF ONE OR MORE SERIES OF ITS GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF SECTION 19-207 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND AND SECTION 55 OF THE CITY CHARTER; PROVIDING FOR THE APPROPRIATION AND DISPOSAL OF THE PROCEEDS OF SALE OF THE BONDS; PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF TAXES SUFFICIENT FOR THE PROMPT PAYMENT OF THE MATURING PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE BONDS; AND GENERALLY RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE, SALE AND PAYMENT OF THE BONDS.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, that:

SECTION 1. Pursuant to the authority of Section 19-207 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and Section 55 of the Charter of the City of Greenbelt (the "Charter"), the City of Greenbelt, Maryland (the "City") is hereby authorized and empowered to borrow money and incur indebtedness for the public purpose described in Section 2 hereof, at one time or from time to time, in an amount not exceeding, in the aggregate, Four Million One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$4,125,000), and to evidence such borrowing by the issuance and sale, upon its full faith and credit, of general obligation bonds, which may be issued at one time or from time to time, in one or more groups or series, as the City may determine.

SECTION 2. Proceeds of sale of the bonds authorized to be issued hereunder shall be used and applied, after payment of the costs of issuance and sale, for the public purpose of refunding the outstanding principal amount of the City's Refunding Bond of 2011 and its Taxable General Obligation Pension Refunding Bond of 2013, and said proceeds are hereby appropriated for said purpose.

SECTION 3. For the purpose of meeting the debt service requirements on the bonds authorized to be issued hereunder, and in addition to such funds received from any other source as may from time to time be legally available and allocated for such purpose, the City shall, if and when such funds are or will be insufficient for such purpose, levy for each and every fiscal year during which any of the bonds may be outstanding, ad valorem taxes upon all real and tangible personal property within its corporate limits subject to assessment for unlimited municipal taxation in rate and amount sufficient to provide for the prompt payment of the principal of and interest on the bonds maturing in each such fiscal year, and, in the event the proceeds from the collection of the taxes so levied in any such fiscal year may prove inadequate for such purposes, additional taxes shall be levied in the subsequent fiscal year to make up any deficiency. The full faith and credit and unlimited taxing power of the City are hereby irrevocably pledged to the prompt payment of the maturing principal of and interest on the bonds as and when the same respectively mature, and to the levy and collection of the taxes hereinabove described as and when such taxes may become necessary in order to provide sufficient funds timely to meet the debt service requirements on the bonds. The City hereby covenants with each holder of any of the bonds to take any action that may be appropriate from time to time during the period that any of the bonds remain outstanding and unpaid to provide the funds necessary to make the principal and interest payments due thereon and further covenants and agrees to levy and collect the taxes hereinabove described.

SECTION 4. In accordance with Section 55(b) of the Charter, a complete and exact copy of this Ordinance shall be posted in a public place or places within the boundaries of the City for thirty (30) days and shall be published at least once within ten (10) days of its passage in a newspaper of general circulation in the City.

SECTION 5. This Ordinance shall take effect ten (10) days after the date of its passage.

PASSED by the Council of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, at its regular meeting, August 10, 2020.

Colin A. Byrd, Mayor

[SEAL]

Attest:

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

BRADEN FIELD TENNIS COURT TOKENS AVAILABLE !

To purchase tokens to be used for the lights at the Braden Field Tennis Courts please call Cathy Pracht at 240-542-2196 or e-mail cpracht@greenbeltmd.gov to make an appointment.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) Buddy Attick Park Parking Lot Reconstruction Project City of Greenbelt Contract No. 2020-06-R

The City of Greenbelt will accept proposals from qualified contractors for the Buddy Attick Park Parking Lot Reconstruction Project until 2:00 p.m. on Friday, September 11, 2020. The project involves the reconstruction/greening of an existing parking facility and includes the incorporation of walkways and storm water best management practices. The RFP package may be obtained electronically at http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/planning_code starting Wednesday, August 5, 2020. Please check this site frequently for project updates and/or changes to the Contract. A pre-RFP meeting will be held at the Greenbelt Department of Public Works, 555 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 on August 20, 2020 at 10:00am. Anyone needing additional information may contact Terri Hruby at the City's Department of Planning and Community Development at (240) 542-2041 or at thruby@greenbeltmd.gov.

CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO ONE OF THE CITY'S CHARITABLE FUNDS

The City of Greenbelt receives no portion of these funds nor does it charge an administrative fee for processing the donations

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND TO ASSIST ST. HUGH'S FOOD PANTRY:

This fund is overseen by the Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association (GILA). The St. Hugh Food Pantry will also take food donations that are dropped outside of the church office at 135 Crescent Road. Thank you so much for your help!

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND:

Established to accept and disburse donations received to assist Greenbelt residents to pay rent to avoid possible eviction. Approximately a dozen individuals receive assistance from these funds each fiscal year.

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OR you can drop off or mail a check made out to fund to 25 Crescent Road, 20770, Greenbelt, MD

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MAGLEV continued from page 1

agree on what to do. Davis started the discussion by saying the maps supplied in the July 20 NHPA Consulting Party Meeting did not adequately show the potential impact to the Forest Preserve. When Mayor Colin Byrd suggested the name of an attorney they could hire, Jordan said, “Hiring a lawyer is a cop-out.” Davis suggested they seek pro bono help from groups like Green Peace, the Sierra Club, the Anacostia Watershed Society or the National Resources Defense Council. It takes a lot of research to understand railroad law, she said. After one more futile attempt to suggest assembling a list of potential attorneys, Byrd quietly said, “A lot of paralysis by analysis.”

When he suggested getting congressional leaders on board, Davis said they’re not interested when federal funding is not involved. Byrd also pointed out that the Prince George’s County Council had not taken a decision as a whole. Jordan said that the maglev would fail for lack of private sector funding – Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR) has made known their intention to apply for a federal loan, estimated to be \$10- to \$15 billion, to construct the Baltimore to Washington segment. Other councilmembers remained focused on what they perceived to be the ways in which maglev would succeed. Davis cited BWRR nationwide promotion and its power of eminent domain. Mach said it will mitigate individual issues, such as noise. Susan McCutchen, a Bladensburg resident who has been active in watching maglev issues, noted that four chambers of commerce and a number of labor unions have publicly stated their support of the project. Roberts thought meeting with BWRR was a waste of time. “We need to do something,” Davis said. But there was no clear sense what that might be. Byrd closed the discussion by saying he would like to schedule a special meeting with U.S. Representative Steny Hoyer that would accommodate the congressman’s schedule.

Council is on record opposing the project, having sent a let-

ter January 2018 to then Prince George’s County Executive Rushern Baker. Since the maglev project was paused between August 2019 and May 2020 to allow the builder, Northeast Maglev, time to work on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), council had little incentive to tackle the issue. At the August 10 meeting there were many unresolved issues. They were unclear, for instance, about whether Hoyer had the power to prevent the transfer of federal property out of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC).

In lieu of council action, Davis looked to citizen groups such as Beth LeaMond’s newly organized group, which meets next on Tuesday, August 18, and Brian and Donna Almquist’s Greenbelt Advocates for Environmental and Social Justice as well as Citizens Against SCMaglev. Roberts urged the city’s advisory boards and the Green Team to become active. Davis defended the Forest Preserve Advisory Board, when Roberts cited their inactivity on this issue.

“I am concerned that nobody is sufficiently prepared for the mammoth task of reviewing the maglev DEIS. And some very smart and diligent people in the city and other friendly communities have been trying to prepare for this for a long time,” said Greg Simmons, a Greenbelt East resident who had earlier responded to an email request for comment.

“The city has serious budget concerns, and I understand that, but if the council can’t quickly get together to set aside a small amount to get expert review of the DEIS – in the \$15,000 to \$30,000 range – and find a contractor to do it, it’s going to be up to ordinary citizens to address all the technical matters the maglev project directors will stuff into the DEIS, with possibly as little as 45 days to comment once it’s out,” Simmons said. “That’s like putting up a high school basketball team against the 1992 Bulls. The last time Maryland did a maglev DEIS almost 20 years ago, the DEIS was 800 pages long.”

CIRCUS continued from page 1



Circus Camp Director Mike Funt teaches an online juggling lesson.

ball-juggling or improve their unicycle technique. In addition to the Zoom sessions, there are video tutorials twice a week, and campers are emailed videos of professional circus performances that they can watch for inspiration.

Of course, no Circus Camp session would be complete without Pie Day, so the first Friday of each session is dedicated to that purpose. The campers receive kits containing the supplies for making shaving cream pies,

and then family members can volunteer to give and/or take a pie in the face. Pie Day is typically one of the most exciting days of Circus Camp, so it’s wonderful that campers can still have that experience while being socially distant, and family members can get in on the fun too.

On the last day of the two-week session, campers have the opportunity to show off their skills in a Showcase, performed live on Zoom. Campers create

COUNCIL continued from page 1

issuance of a Request for Proposal on these two debts.

The first was a bond fund debt from 2001 that was refinanced in 2011. There remains \$1,771,996 outstanding with a present interest rate of 2.93 percent; it currently has six years left until final payoff. The second is a Taxable General Obligation Pension Refunding Bond from 2013, originating as an unfunded liability for the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System. This debt totals \$2,282,641 at an interest rate of 5.30 percent; it has 13 years remaining until payoff. The payoff schedule for both bonds would not change with a refinancing.

Diercksen, in a separate interview, said that the savings bids came in two options: uniform, which means that the projected debt service savings is spread out evenly throughout maturity, and upfront, which means that the majority of the savings is taken in the first few years.

In regard to the 2011 bond, the best bid of the six received came from Freedom Bank. The bank offered a 0.85 percent interest rate, along with a flexible prepayment option, which would mean the bond could be callable, or paid at any stage, without a penalty fee. This low rate makes it unlikely that the bond could be refunded at a lower rate, but the prepayment option is still a plus. The uniform savings choice would mean a net budgetary savings of \$81,213 and the upfront would be \$79,140.

JP Morgan Chase (JPMC) offered the best of five bids for the 2013 bond. Their offer included a non-callable rate for both the uniform and upfront option (1.313 percent and 1.322 percent, respectively), and a callable rate for the upfront (1.47 percent). For the non-callable, \$656,850 would be the uniform savings, and \$610,484 for the upfront; the callable upfront savings would be \$584,073. These rates are not fixed, and require acceptance after a 24-hour period; the rates would be refreshed after that time. Diercksen and Mason, along with council, felt that it was unlikely the rates would

change in any substantial way in the next couple of weeks.

Freedom Bank also made a bid on the 2013 bond, offering 1.4 percent on uniform with a \$643,371 savings, and 1.5 percent on upfront with a \$578,780 savings. These rates are fixed and not subject to change, thus making it an attractive offer if council chose to work solely with them on both bonds.

After the July 27 meeting, both institutions lowered their rates; Freedom Bank by 2 points and JPMC by 10 points.

In response to a question on July 27 from Councilmember Rodney Roberts, Davenport provided council with a report from JPMC as to their environmental stance. The 2019 report stated that the bank recognizes the impact of global climate change and is looking to “finance sustainability,” and looks to make diversity and inclusion a priority. It has an “ongoing focus on environmental, social and governance matters” and seeks “to do even more to take care of our clients, customers, employees and communities in this difficult time.”

Diercksen pointed out that the city was in a strong cash position, and stated that the choice between the uniform and upfront options would come down to a preference for council, based on projected budgetary pressures, such as the current pandemic situation.

Council decided to do a first

reading of the A ordinance, prepared by Walters, which authorized and empowered the city to issue the bonds. It allowed for the amount of \$4,125,000 to be borrowed “from time to time” for the “public purpose of refunding outstanding principal amount” of the 2011 and 2013 bonds. The 19-207 Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland was cited which, said Walters in a separate interview, “is beneficial to the city because it allows the city to refund its prior debt and take advantage of the current historically low rates” as well as Section 55 of the City Charter, which provided for the “levy of taxes sufficient for prompt payment of the maturing principal and interest” of the bonds, “generally relating to the issuance, sale and payment” of the bonds.

Council decided that ordinance B would be addressed on August 10 as it required choosing a bank, something that council wished to deliberate on for the time being, along with the introduction of these new rates. This ordinance and any final decisions on this matter will be discussed in a future article.

Mayor Colin Byrd and Councilmember Emmett Jordan expressed an initial preference for using Freedom Bank, with Councilmember Judith Davis saying that the city would likely “do better with one bank in the long run.”

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Letters continued

puter time, it was wonderful to see families having fun together in the sunshine.

Ellen Noll

Now is the Time To Prepare for Maglev

I applaud Councilmember Judith Davis’ efforts August 10 to bring continued attention to the SCMaglev Project, which is designed to tunnel under parts of Greenbelt, which could damage our natural resources – including in the Forest Preserve – and threatens the structural integrity of our homes and their value.

As she said during the council’s open meeting, “Now is the time for intensity.”

If it wants to, the Greenbelt City Council could be in the driver’s seat in fighting the maglev project. But it has to decide to do so, and it must do so with a singular voice and a singular mission.

If I could give the council one thing to do, it would be this: Begin preparing – now – for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which will provide the most important, but maybe most technically difficult, comment opportunity in the federal decision process. Those comments, if technically sound, could possibly accomplish what the city wants: stopping the train.

As a unit owner in a condo association in the maglev path who has tried unsuccessfully to muster private efforts to review the looming federal maglev environmental report, I can state with some credibility that no one has stepped forward to fund a legitimate fight against the maglev. However, the federal administrative bureaucracy is papered with volunteer-led fights that failed because their comments didn’t meet the technical requirements. If the city can step in now, but doesn’t, the likelihood of success against the maglev is dim.

Right now, the DEIS is expected sometime early 2021, according to the SCMaglev Project website. Before its next work-session on this issue, council should direct its staff to draft a bid proposal to hire an environmental and engineering firm to review the DEIS, so that council can quickly decide on and issue the proposal in open session. It needs to have a firm in place and ready for a comment window that could be as short as 45 days – on a document that could reach 1,000 pages or more. Outside legal counsel would be nice, but that is probably an expensive luxury at this point – and may not be necessary unless the project reaches appeal stages.

The money invested in this review will not be wasted: At worst, a professional review will find that maglev impacts may in fact be minor and Greenbelt has little to fear. At best, it could derail the project and protect our parks and homes for years to come.

Greg Simmons

Maglev Means Losses For Greenbelt

Last Saturday, August 8, we walked with other area residents through the forest preserve here in Greenbelt. Our hike led us along the path where developers want to run the high-speed rail line known as maglev. We passed along wooded trails, marshy ar-



PHOTO BY JOHN CAMPANILE

Hikers survey Northway Fields which would be replaced with high-speed rail.



PHOTO BY JOHN CAMPANILE

Bryan Bruns leads a group of people to see where the maglev would come above ground. Hikers pause to survey the North Woods that would be lost to maglev.

reas, and across the Northway Fields. We saw acres of trees and greenspace that would be converted to a wasteland crossed by fencing, punctuated by huge ventilation towers, and dominated by the train’s exit from its underground tunnel into what was once our North Woods.

The destruction of this valuable green space would represent a devastating loss to Greenbelt and to the greater community of Maryland. The woods filter out pollution, serve as natural noise barriers and are home to a diversity of native plant and animal life. They are also a place of retreat and calm that improve a community’s overall health. According to a 2019 article published by Physics.org, researchers have shown that “People in urban areas have a lower risk of developing psychological distress and better overall health if they have more trees within a walkable distance from their homes.”

Since the communities being most impacted by construction of the maglev won’t be part of its ridership but will suffer from loss of greenways, noise and the chaos of construction, and since many of these communities are majority brown and black, we have to consider this train as another example of environmental injustice due to systemic racism.

The economic benefits are short-term – the 7-year building plan brings jobs that end – but the environmental and community damage is permanent.

In addition, as taxpayers, it will fall on us to pick up the fiscal mess this project represents. Why pay top dollar for a 15-minute ride to Baltimore when teleconferencing does the job faster and for much less money? Certainly this is one of the lessons of our pandemic world.

As residents of Greenbelt, we

cannot let this boondoggle for the rich happen. It’s time to pick up our pens and express our collective displeasure with a project that will destroy our forest preserve and have a devastating effect on the communities it runs through.

John Campanile
Lynn Poirier

Ramp Restored

For numerous years several people, if not more, have been attempting to get the entrance ramp from Edmonston Road northbound to Kenilworth Avenue southbound

repaved. The condition of the ramp’s surface has been deteriorating for years, with the City of Greenbelt doing patchwork when the responsibility for maintenance of the ramp is really the responsibility of the state. I attempted a couple of times to get the ramp repaved to no avail.

I would like to thank Councilmember Silke Pope for her continued efforts to get this ramp repaved, which finally paid off. The before and after photos tell the story. The ramp is finally much more pleasant to drive on. Why we have to expend so much of our time and effort to get such a relatively simple and inexpensive project done totally mystifies me.

Germaine Timmermans

Maglev Economics

I have followed the debate over the building of the SCMaglev through Greenbelt (and other parts of Maryland) with increasing concern. It clearly would

cause considerable disruption to the environment and to city amenities, including the city’s observatory. What I have not seen is a discussion of the economics of this project other than that it is projected to cost about \$100 million/mile. How much would it cost to operate? What would the fare need to be to avoid unsustainable losses? Who would ride it? Surely some sort of market research must have been done for a project of this size. As a citizen of the City of Greenbelt (and thus of the state of Maryland) I am particularly concerned because, according to the recent article in the Greenbelt News Review, in the event of bankruptcy the project would not pay back the construction loans, leaving the state and federal governments responsible for unfinished infrastructure. Until these issues have been fully addressed, no approvals should be given.

Martha L. Gay



Efforts to get the state to fix the intersection at Kenilworth and Edmonston results in a rough patchwork of asphalt.



With a complete resurfacing, the ramp now gives smooth sailing all the way.

- Photos by Germaine Timmermans

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POLIO continued from page 1

Silagy to check on a sick child in the doctor’s care that he suspected might have polio. Silagy examined the child, decided the illness was not polio and refused to issue a quarantine order. Given the difference of medical opinions, the child was subsequently examined by four other medical professionals and ultimately diagnosed with polio.

The Cooperator stated that it had acted in good faith when it reported there were no cases in Greenbelt and that they now had “indisputable evidence that at the time the statement was submitted, a suspected case of polio had already been reported to Silagy.” A letter to the editor from worried mothers said that they felt “the Department of Public Health should be condemned for not having exercised the utmost precaution” in determining whether the illness was polio before publishing the statement. They insisted an investigation be made and actions taken to determine whether more cases existed. The next week’s Cooperator reported that a special council meeting had convened, exonerating Silagy of any blame in the polio situation and concluding that the editorial was written without sufficient facts.

Few Cases Most Years

The highest number of polio cases in Greenbelt was reported in 1946, when 14 children, ranging in age from 3 weeks to 14 years, and one adult were stricken; two of the children were hospitalized for at least four months. In July of that year, Dr. William Eisner, Silagy’s successor, tried to assure concerned residents: “This time every year brings a number of cases of polio. Many parents needlessly become upset and disturbed because they pay attention to ill-founded gossip and rumors. It is important that we all see the situation in its proper light. There are many childhood diseases which are more common and more dangerous than polio from all points of view. Less than 15 percent of polio victims die; more than half of the cases make a complete recovery. The incidence of polio as a rule is less than one tenth of one percent of a population.” Although it was not then known how polio was spread, Eisner offered a list of general Do’s and Don’ts, with the first being: “Please don’t spread any information or statistics unless verified by the proper sources.”

Awaiting a Vaccine

After this time and until the early 1950s, not much editorial space was given to the polio issue. A 1954 Cooperator article titled Polio Conquest Near stated that a vaccine would be available within 5 to 10 years and perhaps “polio will be brought under control as so many other diseases have been. When that time comes,” the article said, “all Americans can feel a sense of pride, for the contributions of people from all walks of life” that helped pay for the care of victims and research endeavors.

Only a short time after, however, in March 1955, the newly renamed Greenbelt News Review reported that pending successful field trials, a vaccine would be available by spring of the same year. If approved, the Salk vaccine would be available to approximately 150,000 first and second graders in Maryland and would require three injections; since there are three strains of polio it was necessary to have

immunity against all the strains. The timing was critical due to the intervals required between injections and the need to have the entire series completed before the onset of the polio season in Maryland, generally the beginning of July. Since so much pre-planning was necessary for a mass inoculation program, “the support and cooperation of all supervisors, teachers, principals and others in the schools” would be imperative in “carrying out this important preventative health activity.” Once the green light was given, 15,000 children in Prince George’s County would be inoculated over a 5-week period. The inoculations were voluntary, and no child would receive the vaccine unless there was a signed request from the parent.

Children Vaccinated

About a month later, the News Review reported that the Salk vaccine was declared “safe and effective.” Under the guidance of the Maryland Department of Health, 455 Greenbelt children were to receive the vaccine. The article stated that “a very high percentage of parents of first and second graders have requested the shots for their children, and that at least one more inoculation will come in the near future.”

In 1956, the News Review published the Health Department’s review of the polio vaccine program in Maryland. A study of this data for 1955 said that a “single inoculation reduced the number of paralytic cases in the vaccinated group by about 60 percent compared to the level of paralysis” among similar age non-vaccinated children. Polio had affected young children almost exclusively, hence the old synonym “infantile paralysis.” The review stated that in recent years, however, there was a notable “upward shift in age selection” and it was “disappointing that in the important late teenage group” the coverage was poor. The Health Department recommended that adults over 20 years of age – especially those between 20 and 35 who lived with young children – also get inoculations. To this extent, everyone could make an important “contribution to the public health by securing injections for himself and his family.”

Vaccine Program Lags

A 1957 News Review article titled Don’t Be Polio Victim stated that, despite the vaccine being “safe, marvelously effective and in abundant supply, the national vaccine program was lagging behind,” and “inertia and apathy” were largely responsible “for the failure of large segments of the public to be vaccinated.” The article said that the “medical profession should go all out in an

effort to promote the use of the vaccine.”

Oral Vaccine Ready

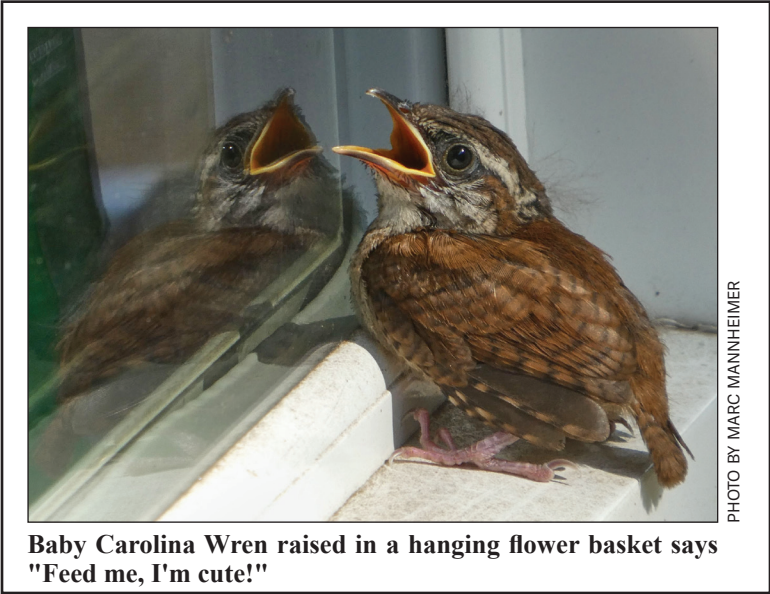
Not much else was written about polio in the News Review until 1964, when a second new vaccine was making headlines. The Sabin Oral Vaccine was reported to confer lifelong protection, compared to the Salk vaccine, which required booster shots. The News Review reported that the cost for the oral vaccine would be a voluntary contribution of 25 cents; however, it would be provided free to anyone who did not have the money to contribute. “There is no such thing as being too old to take the vaccine” the article stated. Citizens who had already received the Salk shots were urged to get the Sabin vaccine because anyone who had not gotten the Sabin vaccine could also be a carrier of polio, and it was only “through total immunization of the area’s population that polio” could be wiped out. Many people believed they should not take the vaccine if they had allergies or diseases. The spokesman for the medical societies, however, indicated that neither disease nor allergy should prevent anyone from getting the vaccine.

Vax Clinics Successful

And so, in April, May and June of 1964, at the Center School and Greenbelt Junior High, the city held three vaccination clinics for the Sabin Oral Vaccine – painless and easy to take by mouth in the form of drops on a sugar cube. Following these vaccination clinics, the News Review reported that Greenbelters were to be “congratulated upon their participation in the intensive polio vaccination drive” after “5,311 persons received their third and final dose of Sabin oral polio vaccine.” Based on an “estimated Greenbelt population in 1963 of 8,830 (including Spring Hill Lake)” it seemed probable that at “least 70 percent participation was achieved.” Thanks to dedicated health care professionals, steadfast and committed parents, and these two vaccines, the United States has been polio-free since 1979, thus closing this chapter in the epidemiological history of contagious diseases in Greenbelt.

Sources

The information in this article was obtained from Greenbelt Cooperators published in 1941 to 1954 and in News Reviews from 1955 to 1964. Digital versions of these papers are available on the Internet Archive (archive.org/details/greenbelt-news-review) or on the News Review website (greenbeltnewsreview.com/archives). For more information contact newsreview.archive.com.



Baby Carolina Wren raised in a hanging flower basket says "Feed me, I'm cute!"

Business

The News Review invites Greenbelt businesses to submit brief announcements for the business column. Tell us about events such as new employees, anniversaries, awards won, new programs, and other newsworthy items. Send brief (40-50 words) items to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Doctors Hospital Honored With National Stroke Care Award

Doctors Community Hospital (DCH) has earned the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association (AHA/ASA) Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award. The award acknowledges DCH’s continued success in applying the most current evidenced-based treatment guidelines in stroke care.

“We are proud of the great work by our physicians, nursing staff, physical and occupational therapy, speech therapy, laboratory, radiology and case management teams for the care that we provide in our community,” said Denise Doherty, director of Emergency Services at DCH.

DCH additionally received the Association’s Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll Award. This targeted award is a distinguished honor for hospitals engaging in advanced care for patients with heart failure or stroke and Type 2 diabetes.

“Everyone on our team contributed in achieving this honor,” said Nick Maningding, stroke coordinator at DCH. “DCH is dedi-

cated to improving the quality of care for all patients by following the highest quality measures and standards.”

According to the AHA/ASA, stroke is the fifth highest cause of death and a leading cause of adult disability in the U.S. On average, someone in the U.S. suffers a stroke every 40 seconds and nearly 795,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.

PHOTO BY LILY SKY YOKEL

Turtles at Greenbelt Lake caught the eye of eager local photographer Lily Sky Yokel, age 6.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

GHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, August 20, 2020

A. GHI Special Open Session – starts at 7:00 p.m. (open to members and visitors)
Approve Motion to Hold an Executive Session Meeting on August 20, 2020

B. GHI Executive Session – starts after the GHI Special Open Session Meeting adjourns (closed to members and visitors)

- Approve Minutes of Executive Session Meeting Held on July 23, 2020
- Member Financial Matters
- Requests by Two Members for Rental permit Extensions
- Proposed Contract for the Purchase of an Electronic Key Management System for the Maintenance Department – 2nd reading
- Request by a Member for Exemption from Fireplace Inspection
- Complaint Matters

C. GHI Open Session (open to members and visitors) – starts at 7:45 p.m.

- Announcement of Complaint Hearings Held on August 3rd, August 4th, and August 10, 2020
- Announcement of Executive Session Meetings Held on August 6th and August 20, 2020
- Approve Minutes of Special Open Session Meeting Held on July 23, 2020
- Approve Minutes of Regular Open Session Meeting Held on July 23, 2020
- Review Companion Animal Committee Guide for GHI Members with Companion Animals
- Nomination & Elections Committee Proposal for Electing Board and Audit Committee Members
- Member Proposal to Establish a COVID-19 Fee Deferral Relief Fund for GHI Members
- Permit Request from a Member to Install a Patio and Wall
- Recommendations to the Board of Directors from the Audit Committee
- Proposed Revisions to GHI Rule re: Minimum Use and Maintenance Standards – Homes and Yards

Contact information for attending the GHI Special Session, and Regular Open Session Meetings which will be held via a Zoom electronic platform due to the COVID-19 pandemic, is as follows:

Time: Aug 20, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84904565186?pwd=b0UvZW9SVWxsY1lPWjBwNnZDcTFLUT09>
Meeting ID: 849 0456 5186
Passcode: 367273

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Passcode: 367273

To request a sign language interpreter for a board meeting, go to <http://www.ghi.coop/content/interpreter-request-form>, contact us by phone (301-474-4161) or fax (301-474-4006).

Regular Board meetings are open to Members

For more information, visit our website: www.ghi.coop

Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, www.greenbeltmd.gov/police
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Assault
July 29, 7:53 a.m., Mandan Road near Mandan Terrace. A person saw a man and woman engaged in a verbal confrontation when the man pointed a handgun at both the woman and the witness. He then fled on a bicycle.

Reckless Endangerment
July 31, 2:26 p.m., 6110 Breezewood Court. A man inside his residence heard a popping noise. The next day he discovered what appeared to be damage from a gunshot inside his residence.

Disorderly Conduct
August 3, 5:17 a.m., Breezewood Drive near Edmonston Road. Officers responded to a report of the sound of gunshots in the area of 9000 Breezewood Terrace. There were no reported injuries but there was evidence of shots being fired in the area.

Theft
August 1, 8:56 a.m., 5 Court Laurel Hill Road. A yellow bicycle was taken from residential property. Surveillance footage showed a Black man wearing a grey shirt and black pants cut the lock off the bike and take it.

Fraud
August 1, 9 a.m., 7 Court Laurel Hill Road. A gray bicycle with white tires was taken from the front porch of a residence. The bike chain had been cut.

Vehicle Crime
August 2, 8:14 a.m., 7595 Greenbelt Road. A shopper's car keys were taken from a carry bag at Safeway. Surveillance film showed a woman going through the shopper's unattended bag.

Vehicle Crime
August 2, 3:37 p.m., 7900 block Lakeside Drive. A parcel was taken from the front stoop of a residence.

Vehicle Crime
August 8, 4:30 a.m., 7200 Hanover Drive. A desk attendant at the Holiday Inn observed a man lean over the counter, remove money from the cash register and then flee on foot.

Vehicle Crime
July 31, 12:01 p.m., 5300 block of Stream Bank Lane. A woman received a phone call from someone she did not know, who told her there was fraudulent activity involving her passport and that she would have to pay money to address the issue. The woman then wired money and later discovered she had been defrauded.

Vehicle Crime
August 4, 3:30 p.m., 6013 Springhill Drive. A man was contacted by way of social media by someone he thought was a friend, who asked for his bank account information and home address so that both of them could take part in a money-making scheme. He provided this information and then discovered his social media had been hacked. When he noticed a large check had been deposited into his bank account, he immediately called the bank and froze his account. He then started receiving text messages demanding that he send money. Later that day three men went to his residence, banged on the door and demanded money. The man contacted police and all three men fled.

Vehicle Crime
Two vehicles were stolen. A 2016 4-door Cadillac XTS-XL taken July 31 from 5707 Cherrywood Lane was recovered the same day by Maryland State Police after having been involved in a hit-and-run accident on the Beltway.

Vehicle Crime
A gold 4-door 2002 Hyundai Elantra with Maryland tags A344590 was taken from 5801 Cherrywood Lane on August 4. The person suspected of taking it is known to the owner and the investigation is ongoing.

Vehicle Crime
A handicap placard was removed from an unlocked vehicle in 7525 Greenway Center Drive. A window was broken out and a pair of boots and clothing were taken from the 6400 block Ivy Lane. At 5919 Cherrywood Court the door to a work van was forced open and power tools were removed. A tablet-type computer, laptop computer, cell phone and clothing were taken from a possibly unlocked vehicle at 9244 Edmonston Road.

Vehicle Crime
Windows were broken out in three vehicles in the 6400 block Ivy Lane and one vehicle in 6320 Golden Triangle Drive. The windshield of a vehicle was cracked in the 8000 block Greenbelt Station Drive and a nearby doorbell video showed a Black woman hitting the windshield with an unknown object.

Vehicle Crime
A man approached a woman as she was pumping gas at the Shell Food Mart and attempted to engage in conversation with her. When she rebuffed his advances, he got into a silver SUV, drove past her and threw a rock at her vehicle, which damaged the door.

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter.

Call 1-866-411-TIPS.

People may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 240-542-2145.



Greenbelt's illustrated man, known to "everyone in Greenbelt" for his artful tattoos

Toastmasters Meet Online Wednesdays
The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club has gone virtual. Those interested in improving communication or leadership skills are invited to join online or by phone every first, third and fifth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Find details for joining remotely at greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org.

**REQUEST A MEAL
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FEED GREENBELT
Each \$10 donation provides 1 reheatable meal to a Greenbelt resident in need. Meals are balanced and delicious. They are made from whole foods and are free from chemicals and preservatives.
Meals are offered on Wednesdays and Saturdays for contactless pickup at The New Deal Cafe front patio from 4:30pm-5pm. Free contactless delivery is available. The signup deadline is Sunday noon for the following Wednesday & Saturday.
Hosted by DC Vegan and MCF Community Church

MCFcc.org/FeedGreenbelt

Reel and Meal Film Celebrates Longtime Activist and Organizer

On Monday, August 17, Reel and Meal, in partnership with the Center for Dynamic Community Governance, will feature Heather Booth: Changing the World. The film and discussion, facilitated by Booth's political mentor, Jacky Grimshaw, will be streamed on Zoom. Registration is required, at tinyurl.com/reelandmeal-heatherbooth.

Released by Women Make Films, this film by critically acclaimed filmmaker Lilly Rivlin traces the ongoing legacy of activist and community organizer Heather Booth. In telling the story of Booth's life and work, the film presents an overview of 50 years of the progressive movement. From a politically conscious college student who began her career in 1964 registering voters in Mississippi at the height of the Civil Rights movement, Booth became the go-to strategist for causes ranging from child care to women's rights to immigration reform as well as an advisor to leaders including Julian Bond and Senator Elizabeth Warren.

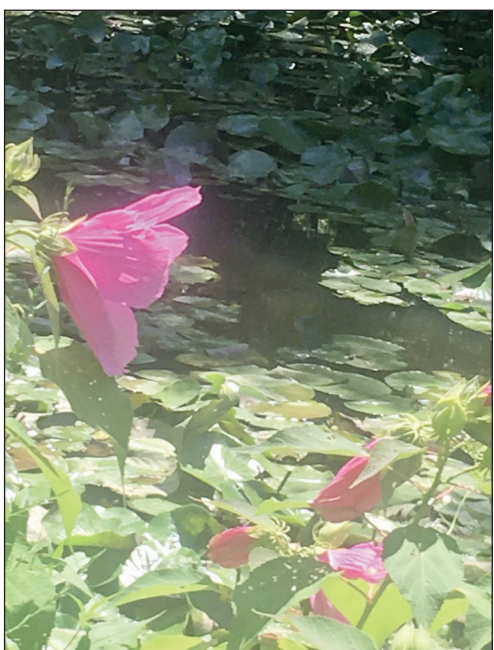
This film is an urgent response to the current administration, when many are wondering how to make their voices heard as civil rights and women's rights are under attack. The intention of the film is to provide viewers the tools for community organizing that will inspire activism and ignite change.

For more about this film contact Aileen Kroll at aileen@dynamic-governance.org or visit heatherbooththefilm.com/about, the New Deal Café's e-calendar (newdealcafe.com/events/reel-and-meal) or their Facebook page at facebook.com/groups/newdealcafe. To reach the Reel and Meal organizers email reelandmeal@newdealcafe.com.

Reel and Meal, a monthly film series focused on environmental, social justice and animal rights issues, is organized by the Beavertown Creek Watershed Watch Group, Green Vegan Networking, Utopia Film Festival and the Prince George's County Peace and Justice Coalition.


Tax deductible donations to support Reel and Meal programs are kindly accepted through the Center for Dynamic Community Governance at dynamic-governance.org/donate. Indicate that this is a donation to Reel and Meal via the "add a note" option.


While DC Vegan will not be providing a picnic carryout meal this month, attendees are encouraged to support other local businesses during these trying times.



Lily Pads at the lake.

PHOTO BY LILY SKY YOKEL

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NOTICES

BLACK LIVES MATTER

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, 30 minute Q & A for Newcomers, Monday, August 17 at 6:45 p.m. Find out about a 12-step support group for people with over and under eating and other problems with food. Attend by Zoom or phone. No dues or fees. For info, call 240-305-3433.

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FOUR LADIES YARD SALE – 22 Ridge Road. Across from Green Ridge House. 8/15/20, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Early birds welcome. Tops, Plus sizes-1x, 2x, 3x. \$1 each. Pocket books, jewelry, games, jigsaw puzzles, deck cards (jumbo) \$.50, pick-up sticks \$.50, Christmas items (nice). Christmas is only 3 months away. Magazines \$.50, bed spread, queen size, lavender, green and white, \$2. Come look and we will barter. Rain date, Sunday 8/16/20.





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BOXED: \$10 column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads.
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Greenbelt HOAs and Civic Associations Update Council

by Matt Arbach

On August 3, the Greenbelt City Council welcomed representatives from some of the city’s civic associations and HOAs (home owners associations) to a worksession to give an update on their respective communities. Councilmember Emmett Jordan emphasized that Greenbelt is predominantly a community of associations, each with its own separate governance, concluding that they are the lifeblood of the city.

Belle Point

First to speak were Darlene Simmons and Bill Brabble from the Belle Point HOA. This is a 26-year-old community of 97 townhouses mostly privately owned. This private HOA is a “tight community,” said Simmons, “where we look out for each other and enjoy being part of Greenbelt.” Simmons reported that the HOA has received no notification from its residents concerning issues with fees or mortgages, in this time of COVID-19, but that the HOA is empathetic and committed to offering aid. She said that there have been problems with late night vandalism, as well as car rifling (which appears to be part of a county-wide issue) and door checking. Belle Point residents are encouraged to sign onto a community email list, where residents can share support and information. Simmons and Councilmember Silke Pope were anxious to address the problem of speeding on Lakecrest Drive, which was studied in the past but, they agreed, deserves another look.

Boxwood Village

Next was Boxwood Village Civic Association represented by Robert Goldberg-Strassler. He reported that Association leadership is in transition. An awardee of the group’s scholarship program will be announced soon. Two successful fundraisers have occurred recently: a yard sale, with the proceeds going to the Greenbelt Elementary School PTA and scholarship fund, and a yard/bake sale, with the \$3500 proceeds going to Black Lives Matter and Freedom Fighters. He stressed that a speed bump at the corner of Ivy and Lastner Lane might be worthwhile to consider as drivers often fail to stop at the stop sign.

Greenspring One

Deborah Eubanks, the new president of the Greenspring One HOA, said that more information from her community will be forthcoming as the HOA looks to have a meeting soon, with the pandemic hindering their efforts to meet.

Charlestowne Village

Daisy Brown, president of the Charlestowne Village HOA, said her community was doing very well, with Mayor Colin Byrd adding that this 56-year-old community was critical to Greenbelt. It has 165 units, 29 of which are rentals. She relayed the question of the uses of city taxes from some of her neighbors, as they already pay fees to the HOA for services like trash and recycling. Councilmembers explained that

the city tax is to benefit the city as a whole, a key component of keeping up property values (valuable to all residents). Pope and Brown brought up the problem of the entrance and exit to the community, where street parking close to the intersection poses a visibility issue, which has led to accidents. They suggested simply removing the nearest parking place as a quick solution, aware that in the past the city has discussed possible intersection changes.

Woodland Hills

Peter Cooper, president of the Woodland Hills Community Association, was joined by David Shapiro and Bob Rand. Woodland Hills includes 50 homes. The Association maintains a two-acre wooded lot on its property. Cooper expressed concern over a nearby wooded lot sold to the city that the city was to have maintained. Residents have reported dead branches, a possible fire hazard. City Manager Nicole Ard said she would look into this.

General Concerns

Both Simmons and Brown related that landlords often neglect to inform renters of the development’s rules. Simmons said that Belle Point makes the effort to send this information to all landlords and new renters.

Council explained that within a private community, speed bumps are under the purview of the HOA, as opposed to city streets, since the question was often raised.

Considering the pressures of the pandemic, council raised the subject of HOA fee abatement. The representatives mostly concurred that they would be willing to assess this on an individual basis, but that these fees are essential to the everyday working of their communities. The problem is even more pressing for smaller HOAs which have less money coming in.

Issues with customer support from Verizon and Comcast were discussed as there is still a persistent problem with dead zones and unsafe and damaged cable boxes. Concerning the latter, Simmons said that in the past Verizon has conducted walk-through inspections, yet the problem remains chronic. According to participants, Comcast has not been responsive. Pope said she has drafted a city ordinance addressing safety concerns, which she sent to Assistant City Manager David Moran, but it is held up by pandemic closures. Residents are encouraged to report all such complaints to Beverly Palau, the city’s public information and communications administrator who will follow up. Davis said the city is in ongoing contract negotiations with both companies, which will address many of these issues, including Wi-Fi reception.

The group briefly discussed the proposed maglev project. This pressing issue will be discussed at a worksession in the near future.

Jordan said that, regarding civic associations, council is here

to serve you, and encouraged them to reach out. Davis said that in years past there were bigger turnouts at these sessions, with sometimes up to 15 groups attending. She hoped the next meeting would have greater representation, at a time when COVID-19 has passed.



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The Leader in
Greenbelt Real Estate



Brick Townhome on Corner Lot 3BR GHI home - completely remodeled. Large fenced yard w/ Trex patio and shed. Modern kitchen & bath, nice!
Addition With Full Bath Downstairs 2 BR GHI townhome with large family room/bedroom on main level. Completely remodeled - opened kitchen.

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Senior Living 55+ Community 2Br 2Ba condo w/fireplace & more! Remodeled w/new kitchen, modern baths, sunlit enclosed patio, new carpet & paint.

Cape Cod Home Investors - priced to sell! 3BR 1.5BA home with large fenced yard, \$44,900. dining rm., br & full bath on mn. lev. \$208,900

Estate Sale GHI 2 Bedroom townhome with hardwood floors, opened kitchen & breakfast bar. Large fenced backyard opens onto protected woodlands.

Brick Townhome with Addition Full bath on main level. Remodeled kitchen & bath. Central A/C, refinished hardwood flrs., shaded & fenced backyard.

Large floorplan w/addition Half bath on main level. Masonry townhome w/ fenced backard & brick patio. Zoned HVAC system, 11' x 17' master br.

Cape Cod SFH 3br 2 1/2ba home with rem. Kitchen, above-ground pool & wrap-around deck. Finished basement with family room and office space.

Townhome with 2 additions 2 bedroom GHI home on fenced corner lot. Large fenced yard, addition to back, extra storage in front. Central HVAC.

4 Bedroom 3 Level Townhome Master bedroom & full bath on main level. Opened remodeled kitchen, fireplace in lr. Backs to protected woodlands.

Townhome with addition 2 br townhome w front laundry/office addition. Opened kitchen w/passthru & pantry. Fenced backyard with large deck.

Charlestowne Village Single-level 1-br condo in Greenbelt - no stairs! Parquet flooring throughout. Remodeled kit. With S/S appliances. \$149,900

Addition - Backs to Woodlands Completely remodeled throughout; half bath on main level. Central HVAC system. Fenced yard, shed & raised deck.

Brick Townhome 2 Bedroom GHI townhome remodeled throughout. Modern kitchen with s/s dishwasher. Hardwood both levels. \$169,900

Upper Level One Bedroom GHI home with full-sized washer and dryer in separate laundry room. Refinished hardwood flooring throughout. Nice!

2 BR Townhome Remodeled GHI home w/ new carpet fresh paint & ceramic bath. Priced to sell at \$124,900

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Fall City Recreation Classes: Virtual, Hybrid and On-site

by Nicole DeWald



PHOTO BY CHRIS CHERRY

Kateri Baker plays her ukelele. Ukelele classes are available online for the Fall session at Greenbelt Recreation.

Greenbelt Recreation has announced an extensive schedule of fall classes for all ages. The session will include online learning opportunities, hybrid activities and a limited number of fully on-site programs. The Fall Activity Guide is posted on the Greenbelt Virtual Recreation Center: greenbeltmd.gov/recreation. A print version will not be produced this time.

Coming attractions for fall include a new hybrid edition of the Mom’s Morning Out pre-school

program along with classes in tai chi, yoga, Pilates and Zumba. Participants can also enjoy a breath of fresh autumn air with outdoor circus arts and archery classes. Ukulele classes will continue. Dance programs will span the department’s traditional range of disciplines including ballet, contemporary, jazz, hip-hop, tap and story-based classes for young movers. A special feature this session is the “Nutcracker to Go!” program,

bringing the distinctive “New Deal Nut” to participants’ living rooms through a week of interactive activities. Visual arts programs will include pre-school art, drawing, painting, printmaking, polymer clay sculpture and jewelry, programs inspired by visionary artists and wildlife, embroidery, ceramic hand-building and sculpture, pottery on the wheel, ceramic art tile, raku and more. Many arts classes are intergenerational, providing creative opportunities for grandparents, aunts and uncles to connect with distant little ones in their lives.

Registration opens on Monday, August 17 for Greenbelt residents and on Monday, August 24 for non-residents. Registration will be accepted by email or online through RecLink (see recreation.greenbeltmd.gov/wbwc/webtrac.wsc/splash.html). Classes will begin during or after the week of September 8. For additional information, call 301-397-2200.



- Photos by Beverly Palau



Pre-schoolers are busy during a class last year. Staff at the Recreation Department have restructured many popular classes to be pandemic-safe. Included in the fall schedule will be preschool art and, for older students, archery.

Rude Mechanicals and Arts Center Bond on Shakespeare

by Jon Gardner



PHOTO BY RACHEL ZIRKLIN DUDA

The Rude Mechanicals present Cat on a Hot Tin Roof at GAC in June, 2019.

Greenbelt Arts Center (GAC) recently announced a partnership with The Rude Mechanicals (RM), which will present three productions per year in Greenbelt, starting August 15 and 16 with an online presentation of William Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet.

For more than 20 years, RM has offered its original interpretation of classic theater with plays performed at GAC and elsewhere, working its way through the Shakespeare canon. It has also presented other plays from Shakespeare’s time, along with more recent classics like Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. RM often sets Shakespeare’s plays in modern times or other periods of history and experiments with gender roles.

This production of Romeo and Juliet, directed by Claudia Bach, will be presented as the story of two young women in rural America during the Don’t-Ask-Don’t-Tell era, fighting against the prejudices of their families and even themselves in order to be together. Bach explains, “I wanted to explore how we overlook and miss the voices of young people. There is a striking lack of trust and communication between the young people in this community and the adults, and the consequences are dire. What does it mean for two young

women, living in a town so small that they’re practically isolated, to learn something about themselves – their love for each other – that suddenly makes them an Other?”

Bach continues, “Alienated from the few people around them, who would they go to? Who would they trust? Suddenly, as they grapple not only with their secret infatuation but with the secret of their own identities, we can feel the full weight of the stakes Shakespeare is presenting to us, and the story begins to shed new light on what it is to love others and yourself.”

The production can be viewed live on Zoom on Saturday, August 15 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, August 16 at 2 p.m., with a talkback with the cast and crew following the Sunday show. The play can also be viewed later on YouTube. For more information and links, visit greenbeltartscenter.org. Performances are available free of charge, but donations are encouraged to support both RM and GAC. A portion of the donations will be used to fund GAC’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives. See the ad on page 3.

In addition to the three plays performed each season by RM, GAC will continue to produce five or six resident productions and work with other outside production companies, all selected through an open proposal process.

Jon Gardner is a member of the board of directors for the Greenbelt Arts Center.

City Notes

Horticulture/Parks removed storm-damaged tree limbs. Public Works added online content about native plants, the firefly sanctuary, food scraps and the Green Time Bank.

Animal Control rounded up a runaway dog. One cat and three kittens graduated from foster care. Five cats and three kittens are in the shelter.

Refuse/Recycling collected 29.72 tons of refuse and 13.03 tons of recyclables.

As summer camps wound down, counselors enjoyed an evening Mystery Hunt by bicycle. Fifteen summer performing arts classes are ending and more than 20 are planned for fall. Arts classes are abundant too.

Planning and Public Works explored Beltway Plaza’s possibilities for indoor recreation. Springhill Lake Elementary students received over 100 summer activity kits. Outdoor movies began Friday; all August shows sold out.

Park Rangers encouraged safety at their weekend Buddy Attick Park information table.

Thirty-five home-bound seniors received meals thanks to Therapeutic Recreation. From CARES, 27 Green Ridge House residents received federally funded Farmers Market vouchers.

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